



# COVID-19 Update

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## In today's update: share your innovation; new and updated COVID-19 FAQs.

### Last chance to share your innovative ways of working

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that they have until **Thursday 25th June** to share examples of beneficial changes – whether clinical, operational or system based – that they have implemented during the response to COVID-19.

A survey from NHS England and NHS Improvement aims to make sure these innovations are captured, evaluated and, where possible and appropriate, sustained for the future.

#### [Share your innovation examples](#)

### COVID-19 FAQ library update

PSNC continues to answer a large number of queries from community pharmacy contractors and their teams during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a number of developments in recent weeks, we have been busy reviewing our FAQ library.

We have now updated some answers to common questions and added a few new ones, such as:

**Q. Why is the administration of the prescription charge still deemed an essential function for community pharmacy right now? Is there the possibility to suspend NHS levy charges to reduce cash handling and administration of prescriptions?**

PSNC raised the collection of prescription charges during the COVID-19 pandemic as an unnecessary administrative burden and potential infection risk (through the handling of money) in discussions with HM Government several weeks ago. We believe the charge should be suspended and as such we support the work that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and others are also doing to press for this.

PSNC, the British Medical Association (BMA) and Dispensing Doctors Association (DDA) **wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock**, to highlight this issue. In a response to a recent parliamentary written question on removing the need to collect and pay prescription charges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government highlighted that the prescription charge is a valuable source of income for the NHS and that they had no plans to suspend them.

PSNC is disappointed by this decision given the increased administrative burden and safety issues that collecting prescription charges poses for pharmacies during the pandemic.

[View our updated FAQs webpage](#)

Keep up-to-date with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)

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